

Pro-Thr-Pro-Glu-Met-Arg-Glu-Lys-Leu-Cys-Gly-His-His-Phe-Val-Arg-Ala-Leu-Val-Arg-Val-Cys-Gly-Gly-Pro-Arg-Trp-Ser-Thr-Glu-Ala (SEQ ID NO:4)

or said amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:4) truncated by up to 5 amino acids from the N-terminus and/or by up to 5 amino acids from the C-terminus;

said A and B chains linked by disulfide bonds between amino acid residue number 11 of SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid number 10 of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the condition is ameliorated or prevented by the administration of the relaxin like factor.

Please add the following new claims:

--14. (new) The method of Claim 4, wherein the relaxin like factor is co-administered with a relaxin.--

--15. (new) The method of Claim 14, wherein the condition is immature-ripening-of-the-cervix.--

--16. (new) The method of Claim 4, wherein the condition is sperm mobility dysfunction or infertility.--

--17. (new) A method of reducing the generation of extracellular matrix by a fibroblast cell comprising contacting the cell with a relaxin like factor in an amount sufficient to inhibit the expression of collagen, inhibit the expression of fibronectin, or increase the expression of procollagenase, and wherein the relaxin like factor is produced synthetically or recombinantly.--

--18. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein the cell is a human fibroblast cell.--

--19. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein the cells are simultaneously contacted with relaxin.--

--20. (new) A method of enhancing sperm motility comprising contacting sperm with an effective amount of relaxin like factor, and wherein the relaxin like factor is produced synthetically or recombinantly.